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Subject: Charleston Gazette (2-7) Chemical detected at GW High School this morning

Chemical detected at GW High School this morning

By Mackenzie Mays

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Crude MCHM, the chemical that leaked into the Elk River last month, was detected in George Washington High School's water supply this morning, according to Kanawha-Charleston Health Department officials.

Lab results received around 8 a.m. at the school showed the chemical at 18.33 parts per billion -- higher than the 10 parts per billion, or the "non-detect" level, that has been used to declare schools safe.

Kanawha-Charleston Health Department head sanitarian Nassandra Wright emphasized that the school's results are below the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation of 1-part-per-million, though.

GW was in regular session on Friday afternoon. Kanawha County school board member Becky Jordon, whose son attends the school, said shortly before noon she did not know if the chemical had been detected at the school.

At a meeting this morning, state Homeland Security and Emergency Management director Jimmy Gianato said that when test results come back to his department, they are posted online within five minutes. Lawrence Messina, a spokesman for the department, said in an email at 12:29 p.m. that the department was expecting test results from 14 schools, including GW.